**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DISABLED STUDENTS’ ALLOWANCES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/17**

**Response Proforma**

The information you send to us may be published in a summary of responses received in response to this engagement exercise. We will assume that you are content for us to do this, and that if you are replying by e-mail, our consent overrides any confidentiality disclaimer that is generated by your organisation’s IT system unless you specifically include a request to the contrary in the main text of your submission to us.

**Responses to engagement exercises may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential, please tick here:**

 **Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Organisation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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 **Email Address**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Telephone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Completed responses should be sent by **30 June 2015** to:

Higher Education Division

Welsh Government

Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

Or by email to: HEDConsultationsMailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk

**Disabled Students’ Allowances in Academic Year 2016/17**

The support available to disabled students in Wales is being reviewed following the announcement of changes to support arrangements in England. Your comments are invited on the proposed changes to the Disabled Students’ Allowances (DSAs) from academic year (AY) 2016/17 as detailed in SFWIN 01/2015.

For each question please clarify what you consider the impact to be on disabled students.

1. **Changes to the IT support:**

Do you agree with the proposed changes to DSAs support for IT in AY16/17? Should disabled students contribute towards the costs of their assistive technology package? If so, what amount do you consider reasonable and why?

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1. **Additional items such as printers and consumables:**

Do you agree with the proposed changes? What is the impact likely to be on disabled students if these items are not automatically provided via DSAs?

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1. **Accommodation**

Do you agree with the proposed changes to the support available from DSAs for additional accommodation costs?

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1. **Non-medical Help**

Should support from DSAs for non-medical help be limited and provided instead by institutions as part of their duties to provide reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010?

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1. **Exceptional Case Process**

Would the implementation of an exceptional case process address any concerns you have raised above?

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1. **Needs Assessment Fees**

Do you agree with a cap on needs assessment fees paid via DSAs? What would be an appropriate level of cap? How else could the expenditure on fees be reduced without having a negative impact on disabled students?

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1. **The Assessment Process**

How could the DSAs study needs assessment process be streamlined for students?

Should the HEI’s Disability Officer have a greater role in assessing the specific impact of a student’s disability on their study at an earlier stage?

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1. **Any other comments**

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